THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) Rainfall in the country is highly variable both in time and space. This results in floods in some parts of the country, whereas the other parts are affected by droughts. About 40 Mha of the area in the country is flood prone whereas 51.13 Mha is drought prone. On an average 7.5 Mha area is affected annually by floods with average damages of the order of Rs. 1,155 crore. On an average 1, 529 human lives are lost due to floods. India receives an average annual rainfall of about 4000 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) including snow. Out of this, 3, 000 BCM occurs during monsoon resulting in an average annual flow of about 1869 BCM in the various rivers of the country. The utilisable runoff by conventional methods has been assessed as 690 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). A live storage capacity of 176.73 BCM has been created by construction of large dams upto 1995 including about 3 BCM capacity created by medium & small dams. Projects to add an additional capacity of about 75.42 BCM are under construction and 132.32 BCN are under planning. Out of 432 BCM of replenishable ground water, 260 BCM has been tapped. In order to complete the ongoing projects, Government is providing Central Loan Assistance underAccelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. The National Water Policy (1987) stipulates that drinking water requirement should be the first charge on any available water. In addition, Command Area Development Programme is being implemented to fully utilize the potential created.

Government of India is also promoting Rain Water Harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the Sector reform Project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Government and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge.

Clearance to external aided projects of Gujarat

3959. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of externally aided projects of Gujarat which are lying pending for scrutiny in the Ministry of Water Resources as on 31st December, 1999; and

(b) what is the time frame for clearing these projects and sending them to Department of Economic Affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) No proposal of Government of Gujarat for external assistance was pending in the Ministry of Water Resources as on 31st December, 1999.

(b) Clearance of project and sending it to the Department of Economic Affairs depends upon the State Government complying with the guidelines of the donor agencies and the Government of India.

Creation of Irrigation Potential in Gujarat

3960. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed in respect of creation of irrigation potential in the State of Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan period with hectares and amount allocated for the purpose;

(b) whether the targets were achieved during the plan period;

(c) if not, what is the backlog and how Government propose to achieve that within a time frame ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The targets fixed and achievements made for creation of irrigation potential during Eighth Five Year Plan period through Major and Medium irrigation projects and Minor Irrigation Schemes alongwith the amount allocated for the same to the State of Gujarat are as under :—

	Creation of irrigation potential during VIII Plan (in Thousand hectares)			Approved outlay (Rs. in crore)
	Targets	Achievement	Backlog	
Major & Medium Irrigation	448.00	104.00	344.00	22,319.53
Minor Irrigation	180.00	35.00	145.00	5,684.26
Total	628.00	139.00	489.00	28,003.79